

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the objection to the specification due to the lack of an Abstract.

In response to the Examiner's Advisory Action, the following response is provided. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. Support for the amendment regarding the tip diameters is found on page 5, lines 13-14, of the substitute specification, thus, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner contends that Applicants state the improvement over the cited references as the tips of the separation fingers are approximately 30 microns in diameter and have a smooth surface but the diameter was not disclosed in the claims. Hence, Applicants have amended claim 1 to reflect the 30 microns or less tip diameter. Applicants further contend that in present invention, the selection and combination of the weight base blend ratio of polyimide with PTFE, the weight-average molecular weight and average particle size of PTFE in correlation with the tip diameter of the separation finger provide: 1) non-adhesion of toner even when the surface layer of the finger has worn as shown by water-repelling angle of the separation finger in Table 3; 2) a smooth surface because of good dispersion at firing temperature for polyimide, i.e., 380 to 500 degree C as described at page 5, line 9, the results being shown in Table 1 and; and 3) the tip strength of the separation finger as shown in table 2.

The JP '883 does not provide information relevant to making the separation finger having its tip diameter not greater than 30 μ m.

The Examiner contends that the separating pawl prepared by the composition of polyimide and PTFE in the JP' 883 equates with the separating finger disclosed in the present application. Any blend of polyimide and PTFE can not be used in molding the separation finger having its tip diameters not greater than 30 μ m, to achieve the performances demonstrated in Tables 1 to 3. The JP'883 provides no instruction for preparing the separation finger having its tip diameter not greater than 30 μ m with the composition of polyimide and PTFE.

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3

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as bracketed, and inserted material is shown underlined.

1. (Twice amended) A separation finger for Electro photographic devices, being formed by compression-molding a blend of polyimide resin powder and polytetrafluoroethylene resin powder into the separation finger, followed by sintering the separation finger having its tip diameters being not greater than 30 μ m, wherein the blend comprises a weight-based blending ratio of said polyimide resin powders and polytetrafluoroethylene resin powders being 70:30 to 95:5 and said polytetrafluoroethylene resin powder being 500,000 to 1,000,000 in weight-average molecular weight and 5 to 20 micro in average particle size.

Cancel Claim 2.